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**CITE FBIS/TEL AVIV 40935**

**TO: FBIS.**

**SUBJECT: DCM BRIEFING**

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1. NEW DCM ROBERT FLATEN, ACCOMPANIED BY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR TOM LINVILLE, VISITED THE BUREAU YESTERDAY FOR ORIENTATION AND A BRIEFING ON OUR OPERATION.

2. DURING THE BRIEFING I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION FBIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FSN CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. LINVILLE CONFIRMED THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE WITHDRAWAL, ALTHOUGH I HAD BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH HIM AT THE LAST FSN CLASSIFICATION APPEALS BOARD MEETING. FLATEN ASKED WHETHER THIS BUREAU COULD REMAIN WITHIN THE SYSTEM EVEN IF ALL OTHER BUREAUS WERE WITHDRAWN. I EXPLAINED THAT FBIS WAS ESTABLISHING ITS OWN WORLDWIDE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND THAT OUR WITHDRAWAL WAS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. FLATEN EXPRESSED MILD OPPOSITION, NOTING THAT IF OTHER AGENCIES WITHDRAW THE SYSTEM WILL BREAK DOWN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT ON EMBASSY EMPLOYEES.

3. THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL OFFICER TODAY IS DRAFTING A CABLE TO STATE COMPLAINING THAT THE EMBASSY WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY MY ANNOUNCEMENT AND EXPRESSING SOME OPPOSITION TO THE WITHDRAWAL.

4. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS TO DEVELOP FROM THIS. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY ARE EXCELLENT. I THINK THE TONE OF THE CABLE TO STATE WILL MERELY EMPHASIZE EMBASSY DISAPPOINTMENT AT BEING INFORMED OF THE DEVELOPMENT SO LATE IN THE GAME. DECL OADR BY   ALL CONFIDENTIAL.  
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